



United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

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United Way Announces Grants to Support Tax Assistance Program

Nearly \$100,000 in funds will enable United Way to provide free tax preparation to individuals across the Greater Richmond and Petersburg region

RICHMOND, Va., Nov. 29, 2017 – As 2017 comes to a close and the upcoming tax season draws near, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg has received nearly \$100,000 in grant funding to support its [MetroCASH](#) program, as well as other efforts to promote tax help services in the area.

MetroCASH is an IRS-sponsored local Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program that promotes [financial well-being](#), one of United Way's nine [Steps to Success](#). By hosting tax preparation sites throughout the Greater Richmond and Petersburg region, MetroCASH provides free tax assistance for low- to moderate-income families and individuals.

The newly-announced grants will enable MetroCASH to expand its reach and host tax events in more places than ever before, including rural areas like Goochland, which will host a tax site for the first time (specific location to be announced in January).

“United Way has a strong commitment to strengthening the financial independence of working families in our region, through both systemic change and direct service programs like MetroCASH,” said James Taylor, President and CEO of United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg. “These grants will enable us to connect with thousands of people throughout the area and give them access to financial expertise and tax preparation assistance they would not have had otherwise.”

Grant Details

- **IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Grant -- \$60,375.** Used to support overall operations of United Way's MetroCASH program. The grant allows IRS partner organizations to increase services to the underserved, increase the number of returns filed electronically, enhance volunteer training and significantly improve the accuracy of returns prepared at volunteer sites.

- **Capital One -- \$15,000.** This grant will be used to fund a part-time volunteer coordinator for MetroCASH. The Volunteer Coordinator will be responsible for organizing and deploying more than 200 MetroCASH volunteers across the region during the 2018 tax season.
- **Virginia Community Action Partnership EITC Initiative Grant Program-- \$14,000.** This grant will support MetroCASH's efforts to provide education, outreach and free income tax preparation services to citizens who may be eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, as well as MetroCASH's expansion into rural localities in the United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg service area. In the upcoming tax season, MetroCASH will host tax preparation sites and events in Goochland, Dinwiddie, New Kent and Powhatan.
- **United Way Worldwide -- \$6,000.** This grant will support local marketing and promotion of MyFreeTaxes, an easy, secure and free way to file state and federal taxes online for individuals and families earning \$66,000 or less in 2017.
- **Prosperity Now -- \$500.** This grant will give United Way access to Prosperity Now's Tax-Time Savings Volunteer Toolkit, which provides valuable resources for volunteers to use to support tax savings in the Greater Richmond and Petersburg region.

Learn More

- For more information about MetroCASH, visit YourUnitedWay.org/MetroCASH.
- For more information about United Way's broader efforts to promote financial well-being in our region, visit YourUnitedWay.org/program/financial-well-being.

About United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg

Established in 1924, United Way of Greater Richmond & Petersburg unites the community by identifying the needs, strengths and solutions to our region's greatest challenges. Through this legacy of "learning, leading and uniting," United Way enhances the prosperity and resiliency of the Richmond and Petersburg community.